

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

CAROLLA et al

Atty. Ref.: 45-309; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. Unassigned

TC/A.U. Unassigned

Filed: March 19, 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

For: LADLE

\* \* \* \* \*

March 19, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: